

TRADITION TRIUMPHS

*NOTRE DAME REMAINED UNDEFEATED AS MYSTIQUE
CONQUERED THE FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES, 31-24*

by Amanda Clinton

November 13, Notre Dame —

Mystique. To some Notre Dame fans the word connotes images of the Gipper, the Four Horsemen, Knute Rockne and Touchdown Jesus. To others it means the intangible feeling that comes when running onto the field at the historical stadium.

And to still others mystique is the force that hovers around the Irish football team when it somehow overcomes powerful foes.

However, most people agree it is something special at Notre Dame and is an intangible aspect of Notre Dame football that has helped many Irish teams to victory.

Mystique doesn't mean much in Tallahassee, Florida. Glitz and slick style are much more important than inconsequential stories of dead football heroes from a place called South Bend. The week preceding the game Seminole Head Coach Bobby Bowden told the media that he overheard some of his players calling Knute Rockne, Rock Knuteny.

While Florida State did not spend any time studying Notre Dame football history prior to the game, the Irish gave the Seminoles a lesson and became part of that history on November 13.

"We're not going to be intimidated,"

Notre Dame Head Coach Lou Holtz declared at the pep rally the night before the game.

But that task was not easy considering the Seminole statistics coming into the game. They ranked fifth in rushing defense with 97.2 yards per game and sixth in total defense with 264 yards per game. In 20 regular season match ups since the beginning of 1992, the Seminoles allowed just five rush-



Jeff Burris did a little bit of everything for the Irish. In addition to pressuring Seminole quarterback Charlie Ward, Burris rushed for 19 yards.

ing touchdowns and only two had been given up prior to this game. Offensively, Florida State averaged 48 points and 572

yards of total offense in its last 12 regular season match ups.

"Florida State is the best college football team I've ever seen, and I've been in the game a long time. They're an awesome team. They're capable of beating anybody in the country by 40 points," Holtz said before the game, and at first it looked like Holtz was right.

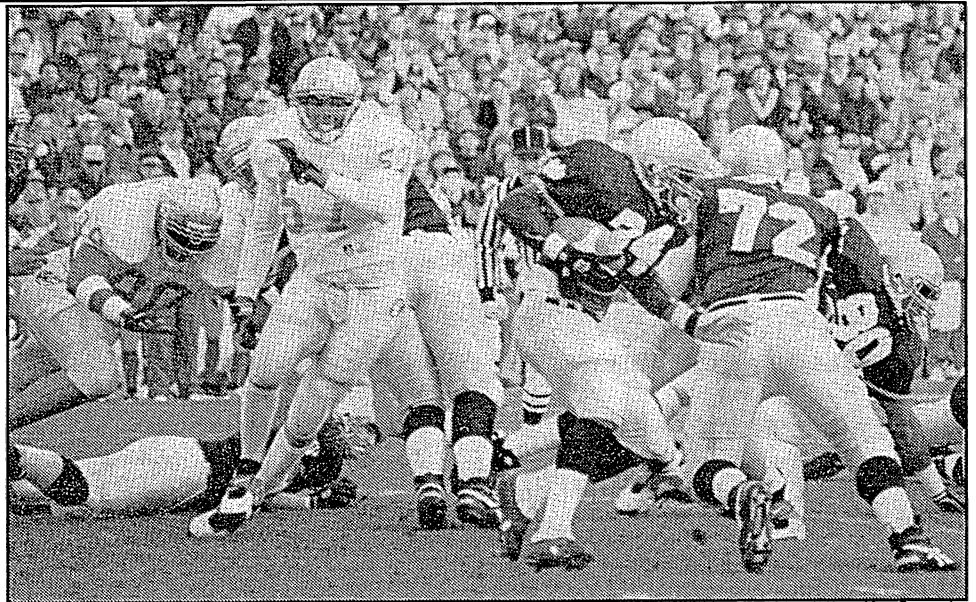
Despite a powerful opening drive, the Notre Dame offense was stopped short of the end zone. The crucial play came on a third down with five yards to go at the Seminole 36 yard line. Senior quarterback Kevin McDougal tossed the ball left to junior full back Ray Zellars, who was wide open but couldn't make the catch. After juggling the ball, it fell to the ground, forcing the Irish to punt.

The Florida State offense took charge and quickly moved the ball down the field in little more than five minutes. Notre Dame received a wake-up call when the Seminoles attempted a flea-flicker on a first down on their own 46 yard line. Senior quarterback Charlie Ward lateraled the ball to senior tailback Sean Jackson, who passed to a wide open sophomore wide receiver Tamarick Vanover, but Jackson overthrew Vanover, resulting in an incomplete pass. Five plays later, Florida State had moved the ball 42 yards down the field. On a first down at the Irish 12 yard line, Ward beat a Notre Dame blitz and threw to senior wide receiver Kevin Knox, who grabbed the ball at the five, spun toward the side line, beat

down, bringing the score to 31 - 24.

The Seminoles then attempted an on-side kick that was recovered by junior cornerback Shawn Wooden. But the Irish were stopped after four plays when they were unable to get a first down. Jarrell lined up for a punt at the Seminole 42, but the kick was partially blocked and downed at the Florida State 37.

With just 51 seconds remaining, on the third play of the drive, Ward rocketed a pass to McCorvey for an 18 yard gain before sophomore cornerback Bobby Taylor took him down. On the next play Ward again nailed McCorvey for 18 yards, bringing the Seminoles to the Irish 14. Ward's next pass didn't even make it past the line of scrimmage because Knight batted the ball down. With three seconds left on the clock, the Seminoles had one last chance to get the ball into the end zone. Ward was flushed out of the pocket and he threw the ball into the end zone where Wooden batted it down. As the ball plummeted to the grounds so did the Seminoles' hopes of staying number one. Notre Dame was victor with a final score of 31 - 24.



Ken Osgood

Junior right guard Ryan Leahy clears a path for junior fullback Ray Zellars.

Florida State learned its lesson.

"They didn't know what Notre Dame was about, and after being here I hope they do," said Jeff Burris.

"To me the mystique of Notre Dame is faith in belief," said Holtz. "The biggest

problem with this team, I thought, was getting them to believe."

But the Irish did believe on November 13, and the mystique of Notre Dame, with its tradition of upsetting higher ranked teams, proved unstoppable for the Seminoles. □

GAME SUMMARY

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	7	14	3	7	31
Florida State	7	0	7	10	24

Team Statistics

	ND	FSU
First Downs	20	26
Rushing	12	6
Passing	7	17
Penalty	1	3
Rushing	239	96
Passing	108	307
Total Net Yards	347	403
Average Gain Per Play	5.2	5.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-38	7-70
Punts-Averages	7-34.0	6-36.8
Kickoff Returns	33	64
3rd Down Conversions	4-13	5-14

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND - Becton 26-122-1, Zellars 11-44, Jarrell 1-32-1, Burris 3-19-2, McDougal 6-12, Failla 1-10, Kinder 1-0 FSU - Ward 11-38, Floyd 5-31, Jackson 7-18, Dunn 7-18, McCorvey 1-9

Passing: ND - McDougal 18-9-108-0-0 FSU - Ward 50-31-297-3-0, Jackson 2-1-10-0-0, McCorvey 1-0-0-0

Receiving: ND - Becton 2-39, Miller 2-30, Johnson 2-22, Dawson 2-20, Zellars 1-(-3) FSU - McCorvey 11-138-1, Jackson 5-26, Frier 4-46, Vanover 4-30, Dunn 3-18-1, Know 2-30-1, Floyd 2-9, Ward 1-10